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1911





THE HAMPTON NORMAL AND AGRICULTURAL INSTITUTE

HAMPTON, VIRGINIA

Emancipation Day at Hampton Institute

Hampton, Va., Jan. 2—Two thousand representative colored people of Hampton and vicinity gathered on New Year's Day in the Hampton Institute Gymnasium, at two-thirty, to celebrate the Forty-seventh anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation. Rev. A. A. Graham, pastor of Zion Church, Phoebus, Va., was the presiding officer. The best white and colored people came together to hear the wonderful story of Negro progress during the years of his freedom. The audience was made up of prosperous-looking, intelligent, attentive, and responsive people.

The chief address was delivered by President J. A. Cotton, of Henderson Normal Institute, Henderson, N. C., who spoke on "The Negro's Opportunity for the Future."

ADDRESS OF DR. COTTON

Dr. Cotton grouped his remarks about four topics: cash, culture, character, and Christianity. He emphasized the importance of training Negro men and women who will prove themselves dependable and fearless in doing what is right. He urged the colored people to serve God aright by helping their fellow-men.

He declared that the Negro race and the nation are dying for the want of love — love that means self-sacrifice and service which is Christlike.

DR. FRISSELL SPEAKS

Dr. H. B. Frissell, principal of Hampton Institute, spoke eloquently concerning the fitness of celebrating the anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation on ground which has been dedicated for over forty years to the upbuilding of the Negro and Indian races through agricultural and industrial training. He referred to the excellent work which is being done by Hampton students who have gone out like Christian soldiers to fight against ignorance, superstition, and sin. Where men had given their lives for freedom, it was fitting, he declared, that Negro men and women should reconsecrate their lives to noble service.

Dr. Frissell expressed the hope that year by year the colored people would gather at Hampton Institute and learn anew that through great tribulation men come to their best.

NEGRO PROGRESS

Rev. A. A. Graham said that he was glad the young people of Hampton Institute, who are the hope of their race, could face the older people and hear the story of emancipation. He outlined the Negro's uphill climb and the marvelous transformation in the colored people through less than fifty years of freedom. It was significant, he declared, that on the old battlefields there had sprung up institutions for the proper education of Negro youth. He referred with pride to the handwork of colored women which was on exhibition at the Hampton Institute Gymnasium and to the thirty-horse power automobile outside of the Gymnasium which had been built "from the ground up" by a Negro youth of Hampton.

David Owl, a Cherokee Indian, who is a Hampton student, brought the people a simple, straightforward, manly message of congratulation on their progress.

Tandy W. Coggs, a colored student at Hampton Institute, spoke on "Negro Education." He declared that the educated Negro has been showing the people that thinking and doing go together. He showed that General Armstrong's belief in the capacity of the Negro for progress, which led to the founding of Hampton Institute, had been well grounded.

INTERESTING PROGRAM

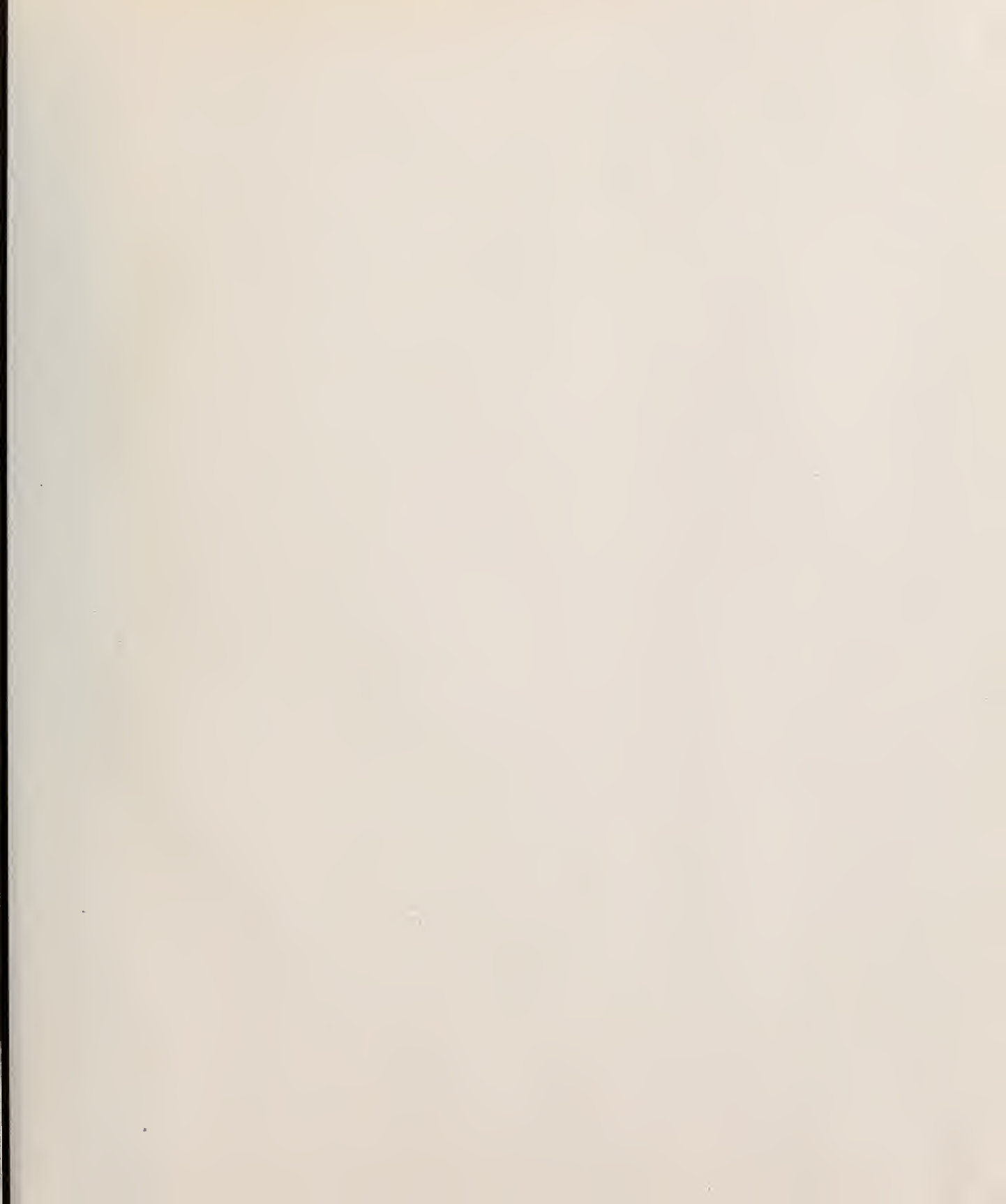
Mr. Tressler Scott, of Hampton Institute, led a chorus of fifty-voices in the singing of three selections, including "Fairy Land" and "Native Land." Rev. J. W. Patterson, of Hampton, offered the invocation. The Emancipation Proclamation was read by Nannie Williams, of Hampton. The Hampton Institute Band played a selection and a medley. The audience sang "My Country 'tis of Thee" and "O Freedom." The benediction was pronounced by Rev. John H. Gray, of Hampton.

The Hampton Institute Battalion, commanded by Capt. Allen Washington, associate commandant, met the large gathering of colored people in Hampton and escorted them to Hampton Institute.

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